

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05749 140017Z
ACTION NEA-10

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R 130934Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0878

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5749

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, IN
SUBJECT: ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY INTERVIEW WITH SECRETARY

REF: STATE 092958

1. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, KAMATH IS NOT SYMPATHETIC TO US VIEWS NOR IS HE A PARTICULARLY ACCURATE REPORTER. DURING A RECENT VISIT TO BOMBAY, FOR INSTANCE, IN SEVERAL PUBLIC LECTURES, KAMATH PUT FORTH THE VIEW THAT A BASIC TENET OF US POLICY IN THE POST-COLONIAL ERA IS TO MAKE SATELLITES OF THE MIDDLE POWERS OF THE THIRD WORLD AND THAT, HAVING FAILED TO DO SO WITH INDIA, WE ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO NEUTRALIZE INDIA'S CAPACITY FOR INDEPENDENT ACTION. THUS, HE HELD, WE CUT OFF NUCLEAR SUPPLIES WHEN INDIA DID FLT TOE OUR LINE JUST AS WE HAD CUT OFF AID IN 1971. WHILE THE "ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY" IS AN IMPORTANT NATIONAL PUBLICATION, WE QUESTION WHETHER AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE SECRETARY WOULD RESULT IN AN ARTICLE BY KAMATH WHICH ACCURATELY REFLECTS US VIEWS.

2. UNDER ITS PRESENT EDITOR, THE "ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY" FREQUENTLY PUBLISHES INTERVIEWS IN A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER FORMAT. IF THERE WERE ASSURANCES THAT AN INTERVIEW WITH THE SECRETARY WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN THIS FORMAT, THEN WE WOULD GO ALONG WITH KAMATH'S
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REQUEST. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH A CONDITION ON AN INTERVIEW IS ACCEPTABLE JOURNALISTIC PRACTICE, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW IF THE DEPARTMENT ASCRIBES TO THE PRACTICE. HOWEVER, WITHOUT SUCH ASSURANCE WE WOULD CONSIDER THE RISKS TO OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS OF GRANTING KAMATH AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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